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Date: December 13, 2010

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor:	Joshi et al.
Serial no.:	10/541,011
I.A. Filed:	December 29, 2003
Title:	ENHANCED GENERATION OF HYDROXYL RADICALS
Examiner:	Edna Wong
Art Unit:	1795
Confirmation:	9060

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir/Madam:

Response

This response is in reply to the non-final office action mailed on June 14, 2009. Applicant encloses a petition for extension of time to file a response for three months, and the appropriate large entity fee.

Claims amendments:

All claims were amended for clarity reasons only and no new matter was introduced by virtue of these amendments.

Claim 1: was amended to clarify that the invention provides an improved method for generating hydroxyl radicals at ambient temperatures: "*...wherein the method is performed at ambient temperature and an enhanced generation of hydroxyl radicals (OH*) is provided.*"

Also, the claim was amended to more clearly define that the exposure to irradiation is only after the mixture contains the catalyst, magnesium oxide (MgO), namely, only when the liquid aqueous mixture already contains the hydrogen peroxide: "*... irradiating the mixture containing hydrogen peroxide and magnesium oxide with US light having a wavelength of from 190 to 390 nm*".

Claims 2 to 19 were only reworded to more clearly define their intended limitation.

Claim 20 was amended to clarify that the liquid aqueous biocidal mixture is water selected from the group consisting of sea water and municipal effluent water. Support for this correction is found, inter alia, on page 7, second paragraph, of the PCT publication.

Rejection under 35 USC §103

In the Office Action, the Examiner initially suggests that the invention as claimed in claims 1, 56, 8 11 and 16 is unpatentable over Coury et al, in view of Giamello et al. The Examiner specifically states that Coury teaches a method for enhancing the generation of hydroxyl radicals at ambient temperature in a liquid aqueous biocidal mixture containing hydrogen peroxide with methods steps that differ